

Press Release



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State Park Reservation Line Opens April 4

North Dakota State Park visitors will be able to make campsite reservations for the coming summer beginning Tuesday, April 4, starting at 8 a.m. (CDT). The reservation line, 1-800-807-4723, allows campers to reserve a spot at any of 11 North Dakota State Parks during the main camping season from May 19 through Sept. 4.

This year, 50 percent of all campsites are reservable on holiday weekends. On other days, about a fourth of the state parks' 1,300 campsites may be reserved. The remaining campsites are on a first come, first served basis. Reserved sites are available at Beaver Lake, Cross Ranch, Ft. Abraham Lincoln, Ft. Ransom, Ft. Stevenson, Grahams Island, Icelandic, Lake Metigoshe, Lake Sakakawea, Lewis & Clark and Turtle River state parks.

The reservation system will again be operated 24 hours a day by NOVO 1, a private telemarketing firm based in Williston. Last year, the firm handled 4,716 reservations for 14,892 nights of camping. Once the reservation is made, park visitors can check their campsite reservation on-line on the department's web site, www.parkrec.nd.gov, by using their confirmation number.

"The first half hour that the reservation line opens is extremely busy," says Karen Assel, park operations assistant for the ND Parks and Recreation Department. "From past experience, we've found that the reserved campsites at Ft. Stevenson State Park for the Governor's Cup Walleye Derby weekend are usually booked within the first 15 to 20 minutes the reservation line opens. Reserved campsites at Grahams Island State Park for Memorial Day and July 4th weekends also fill within the first half hour the reservation line opens."

Assel recommends that those making reservations the first day remain on the line if they are put on hold. "Calls are handled in the order that they are received," she notes, "and even with the 35 operators NOVO 1 has working on opening morning, callers may experience a wait before their reservation can be handled."

This is the 13th year that centralized campsite reservations have been available. Campers can reserve a site by calling no later than noon the day prior to arrival. Payment of the full camping fee and a \$6/site reservation fee must be paid by credit card (Visa, MasterCard or Discover). Credit cards will be charged when the reservation is made.

Park and campsite maps can be found on the department's web site, www.parkrec.nd.gov. The toll-free number may only be used to reserve campsites. Individuals with specific questions, or who wish to reserve cabins, dormitories or picnic shelters, will be asked to contact the parks directly. For further information about the reservation system, contact the ND Parks and Recreation Department at 328-5357.